

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/775,059
Attorney Docket No. Q79802

REMARKS

Upon entry of the Amendment, Claims 1-9 and 11-12 are all the claims pending in the application. Claim 10 has been canceled without disclaimer or prejudice. Independent Claims 1 and 12 have been amended. The subject matter of canceled claim 10 has been added to Claims 1 and 12. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

The Office Action dated December 29, 2005 includes the following five (5) rejections. Claims 1, 2, and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by JP 01-224916 (“JP ‘916”). Claims 1-3, 5-8, and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,433,989 to Hanai (“Hanai ‘989”) in view of JP ‘916. Claim 4 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Hanai ‘989 in view of JP ‘916, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,759,150 to Suzuki, et al. (“Suzuki ‘150”). Claim 9 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Hanai ‘989 in view of JP ‘916, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,455,104 to Sekiguchi, et al. (“Sekiguchi ‘104”). Claim 12 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being unpatentable over “applicant’s admitted prior art” in view of JP ‘916.

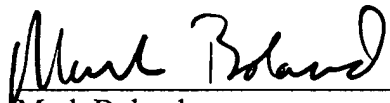
Without admitting that the rejections are correct, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1 and 12 presently recite subject matter that is patentable over the cited art. At page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner has indicated that Claim 10 “would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.” The subject matter of Claim 10 has been added to Claims 1 and 12. Claims 2-9 and 11 depend from Claim 1. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

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In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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